

April 10, 1953

STATE AND NATIONAL GROUPS REQUEST FCC

TO EXTEND JUNE 2 DEADLINE

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Junior Colleges
American Association of School Administrators
American Association of University Women
American Library Association
Arkansas Broadcasters Association
California Senate and the Assembly
Chamber of Commerce of the United States
Governor Dewey - New York State
National School Boards Association
NEA Department of Rural Education
New Jersey Commission on Educational Television
Southern Regional Education Board

The present rules of the Federal Communications Commission provide that after June 2, 1953 petitions may be filed to amend the table of television assignments, including requests to delete educational reservations.

The best protection of an educational channel is a good application on file. Short of this the best evidence is a showing that the community has an interest and is taking constructive steps toward the development of the channels.

The JCET is now collecting such evidence from the 242 communities which have educational television assignments in an effort to achieve a continuation of the reservations.

Many state and national organizations, after studying the facts of the case for educational television, have concluded that the reservation period should be extended, and have submitted the following resolutions to the FCC.

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL BOARD

Governors of the fourteen Southern states reported in a telegram to the FCC that substantial progress had been made in the South toward activation of the reserved television channels.

The statement which was prepared at a meeting of the Southern Regional Educational Board asserted that plans are being developed for regional assistance to state and local educational groups; four applications have been filed and others are in preparation; commissions have been established to explore and develop plans for use of channels; and that sufficient time must be allowed for local groups to prepare further plans and studies for consideration by legislatures.

The telegram concluded with the following statement:

"It is our considered judgment that the optimum development of educational television in this area will be best served if the reservations as now provided for in the Commission's Sixth Report and Order are continued for at least two years after June 2, 1953."

GOVERNOR DEWEY, NEW YORK STATE

The following resolution was included in Governor Thomas E. Dewey's public statement of March 21, 1953 regarding educational television in New York State:

"...I am taking this means of publicly urging the Federal Communications Commission to take affirmative action to continue the allocation of all channels which it has already designated for educational purposes. The report of the Temporary State Commission recommended that the allocation of these channels be continued for educational purposes for from five to ten years. Certainly there is no need for final disposition of these channels to commercial interests until a sufficient period has been allowed for genuine consideration of every possible sound action to establish educational television stations."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in a letter to the FCC, dated March 17, 1953 commended the efforts of the Commission in furthering the development of educational television. The Association looks upon this action as a farsighted, constructive policy destined to have a salutary effect on the dissemination of knowledge.

The letter stated that since their membership is so great and composed of people in the academic field, "... It is often virtually impossible to secure prompt action on even the most worthy educational projects.

"...when large expenditures of funds are involved, often requiring action by boards or legislatures which meet or act on fiscal problems infrequently, the time obstacle is further magnified.

"... we therefore urge that you continue to give educational groups full opportunity after the June deadline to take up channels originally set aside for educational purposes so that it will not be necessary for them to make precipitous decisions under undue pressures."

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the American Library Association a resolution was passed to send a statement to the Federal Communications Commission requesting an extension of the time limitation on the educational television reservations. The statement, dated March 6, 1953 expressed appreciation for the reservation of the 242 television channels for educational purposes. The Association believes that libraries can play an important part in the development and utilization of these channels.

"... the American Library Association wishes to urge that the present time limitation of June, 1953 for the filing of applications be extended...." as considerable time is required in planning for the construction and operation of educational television stations.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The American Association of School Administrators at the Atlantic City Convention, February 18, 1953 adopted the following resolution:

"We commend the Federal Communications Commission for its allocation of the

242 television channels for non-commercial educational purposes. We urge that each area which has been granted one of these channels move as speedily as possible to develop this resource to the end that this important medium of information and instruction may be preserved for educational purposes.

"The practical problems of developing and financing educational television for effective community use make imperative the provision of additional time. We therefore request the Federal Communications Commission to extend beyond June 2, 1953 the period during which the channels are reserved for education.

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NEA DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION

The Department of Rural Education of the NEA in February endorsed the request of the National School Boards Association for a one-year's extension of the time limit for applying for reserved television channels.

Members of the Department were urged to work actively with local and state public school representatives to take advantage of the educational channels available and to support in every possible way other groups working on this problem.

"... we recommend that the Rural Department make every effort to acquaint the FCC with the importance of extending the application date..."

"... we further recommend that public monies expended for television be devoted to public education."

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES

The National Chamber's Education Committee recently adopted the following resolution which was approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors on March 14:

"... Because of the complexity of setting up corporate educational television structures, it is the opinion of the Committee that the June 2, 1953 deadline for filing application for channels being held for educational use in the long-term interest of education should be extended for a sufficient period to permit more

television corporations on a basis consistent with the express provisions set forth by the Federal Communications Commission."

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NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

During its annual meeting in February, in Atlantic City, the National School Boards Association unanimously passed a resolution in support of the extension of the June deadline for the reservation of the educational television channels. The Association acknowledged the opportunities for educational advancement through the medium of television.

The resolution urged, "... that state and local educational authorities make every effort to take advantage of these facilities before the expiration date of June 2, 1953, and to take action to communicate with the Federal Communications Commission about intentions to utilize channels, even though obstacles may, at this time, prevent immediate educational uses of television.

"... the National School Boards Association request the Federal Communications Commission to grant one year's extension to the time in which organizations may make application for educational channels on television, and to hold these channels during this period."

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

In a recent letter to the FCC the American Association of University Women cited the need for more time to develop the educational television channels.

"Because the development of educational, non-commercial television is such a new enterprise and because its effective development requires a great deal of study, preparation and financing, the Commission would be acting in the public interest to extend its moratorium for some additional time."

The AAUW also expressed concern lest the full use of "... this new and valuable resource for educational and cultural ends...", be lost because the time allotted to organize it is too short.

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ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

At its semi-annual convention, a resolution was adopted by the Arkansas Broadcasters Association, requesting the FCC to extend the time for developing educational television stations for a period of at least two years. It was pointed out that in most states neither governments nor educators are sufficiently prepared to apply for facilities at this time.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGES

The American Association of Junior Colleges is aware of the implications of educational television and expects to give the matter careful consideration on all of their future deliberations. A resolution, adopted at their Convention in Texas states:

"The American Association of Junior Colleges believes that T.V. presents great opportunities for educational purposes and that the Federal Communications Commission should be requested to extend the deadline for holding T.V. channels for educational purposes.

"The Curriculum, Administration, Teacher Preparation and Legislation committees of our Association are aware of the implications of educational television and will give the matter careful consideration in all their future deliberations."

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CALIFORNIA SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY

The California Senate and the Assembly have urged the FCC to extend the June 2 deadline for filing applications for educational television stations.

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NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

The New Jersey Commission on Educational Television included a request for the extension of the reservation period in its First Report, published March 12, 1953:

"It is the opinion of this Commission that a reasonable time must elapse after the New Brunswick station has been constructed and is on the air before sufficient data will have been made available to make a recommendation respecting the remaining five channel allocations reserved for New Jersey. Accordingly the Commission recommends that the Governor and the Commissioner of Education petition the FCC to amend its rules to provide for an extension of time for a period of two years within which to apply for the New Jersey channels now reserved for noncommercial educational use, thus permitting ample interim experimentation and thorough study of the means to accomplish the most efficient development of educational television in New Jersey."

Scanned from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters Records
at the Wisconsin Historical Society as part of
"Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection."



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